



An individual who is not a citizen or national of the United States must be permitted legal entry when traveling to the United States. The [Department of State](#) is responsible for issuing visas, which is a permit to apply to enter the United States. Once in the United States, the traveler falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security [US.](#)

[Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\)](#)

. The USCIS handles everything from immigrant status to naturalization of qualified applicants for U.S. citizenship.

Many of the inquiries my office receives generally relate to questions or problems concerning the process of becoming a U.S. citizen, receiving visits from friends or relatives from foreign countries, and renewal of visas or green cards. If you are having a specific problem that you have been unable to resolve with a federal agency and need assistance, information on how to open a case file can be found on my [Casework Resolution](#) web page.

I hope the following resources will be of assistance to you. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to [contact](#) my office.

Resources on this Page

[Visas and Entry into the United States](#)

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Related Pages

[Adoption \(International\)](#)

Visas and Entry into the United States

A visa allows an individual of a foreign country to travel to the United States as far as the port of entry (airport or land border crossing). At the port of entry an immigration officer has the authority to permit the traveler to enter the United States.

The traveler applies for a visa at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy located in their country. There are two categories of U.S. visas – immigrant visas, for people who intend to live permanently in the U.S., and Nonimmigrant visas, for people who wish to be in the U.S. on a temporary basis for a specific purpose. U.S. visa policy permits citizens of certain countries to travel to the U.S. without a visa.

Relevant Links

- [Visit the U.S.](#)
- [Visa & Info-Destination USA](#)
- [Permanent Immigrant Visas](#)
- [Non-Permanent/Temporary Visitor Visas](#)
- [Visa Application Forms](#)
- [Visa Waiver Program](#)
- [ID and Entry for Foreign Nationals](#)
- [US-Visit \(Department of Homeland Security\)](#)

Immigrant/Permanent Residency

An immigrant is someone who is not a U.S. citizen but has been authorized to permanently live and work in the United States.

A Permanent Resident Card, commonly known as a Green Card, is evidence of your status as a lawful permanent resident with a right to live and work permanently in the United States. The Permanent Resident Card is also called Form I-551.

Relevant Links

- [How to apply for lawful permanent residence](#)
- [Immigration thru a Family Member](#)
- [How to obtain an Immigrant Visa Number](#)
- [U.S. Department of State National Visa Center](#)
- [Now that you are a Permanent Resident](#)
- [I am a Permanent Resident, How do I..?](#)
- [Green Cards](#)
- [Emergency Travel](#)
- [How do I get a travel document](#)
- [Other information to know if your case was approved](#)

Non-Immigrant/Temporary Visitors

A nonimmigrant is a foreign national seeking to enter the United States temporarily for a specific purpose. Non-immigrants enter the U.S. for a temporary period of time, and once in the U.S are restricted to the activity or reason for which their visa was issued.

Relevant Links

- [USCIS Temporary Visitors Information](#)

[How do I bring my fiance to the U.S.](#)
[Students and Exchange Visitors](#)

Naturalization and Citizenship

Naturalization is the process by which U.S. citizenship is conferred upon a foreign citizen or national after he or she fulfills the requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act.

A citizen of the United States is a native-born, foreign-born, or naturalized person who owes allegiance to the United States and who is entitled to its protection. In addition to the naturalization process, the U.S. recognizes the U.S. citizenship of individuals according to two fundamental principles: *jus soli*, or right of birthplace, and *jus sanguinis*, or right of blood. Certain individuals born outside the U.S. are born citizens because of their parents, according to the principle of *jus sanguinis* (which holds that the country of citizenship of a child is the same as that of his/her parents).

Relevant Links

- [Naturalization](#)
- [A Guide to Naturalization](#)
- [Application for Naturalization](#)
- [Citizenship and Nationality \(State Department\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Naturalization](#)

Tools – USCIS Citizenship and Immigration Services

- [Immigration Services and Benefits](#)
- [National Customer Service Center](#)
- [Immigration Forms and Fees](#)
- [Fingerprint Instructions](#)
- [Electronic Filing \(E-Filing\) for Immigration Benefits](#)
- [Processing Dates for Applications or Petitions](#)
- [Finding the Status of Your Case](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions – Case Status Service Online](#)
- [How do I appeal the denial of my petition or application?](#)
- [Employer Information](#)

USCIS Field Offices that Service Wisconsin

- [Chicago District Office](#)
- [Minnesota - St. Paul Sub Office](#)
- [Nebraska &nbs;Service&nbs; Center](#)

